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REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY China

DATE OF  
INFORMATION 1950

SUBJECT Economic - Water conservation

DATE DIST. 15 Apr 1954

HOW  
PUBLISHED Irregular periodical

NO. OF PAGES 2

WHERE  
PUBLISHED ShanghaiDATE  
PUBLISHED 1 Sep 1950SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Chinese

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SOURCE Kung-ch'eng Chien-she, No 7, 1950CHINESE WATER CONSERVATION PROBLEMS IN 1950

Sun Fu-shih

Methods of Increasing Agricultural Production in China

In 1950, the Central People's Government of China decided to increase agricultural production through improvement of techniques, flood prevention and by reclaiming waste land. This production was to be increased by improvement of seedlings, 10 to 50 percent; by increased use of fertilizer, 10 to 20 percent; by pest control, 10 to 50 percent; and by irrigation and drainage, 10 to 100 percent.

Agricultural areas in China usually threatened by flood include 48 million mou in North China, or an average of one flood every 7 years; 750 million mou in the Yellow River region; 70 million mou in the Huai Ho region; 121.5 million mou in the Yangtze River region; and 14 million mou in the Chu Chiang region. There are no statistics on Northeast China.

The cultivated land in China is approximately 9 percent of total land area. According to an incomplete survey, the waste land in East China includes 10 million mou along the North Kiangsu seacoast, 2.5 million mou in the Huai Ho Basin region, 3 million mou of alkali beds in Shantung, 2.5 million mou in the Yangtze River Basin region, and 3 million mou along the Chekiang-Fukien seacoast. There is a total of 33 million mou of waste land in East China, or one eighth of total farm land in East China.

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East China Flood Control and Water Conservation Work, 1949-1950

In 1949, 54 million mou in East China were flooded, and over 16 million people were affected. During this catastrophe, 12,480,000 mou in Shantung were flooded; 17,890,000 mou, in North Anhwei; and 17,760,000 mou, in North Kiangsu.

In 1950, the total cost of water conservation work for China amounted to the value of 1.3 billion catties of foodstuff; for East China, 600 million catties of foodstuff.

The earth work done in the spring of 1950 in East China totaled 193 million cubic meters, including 70 million cubic meters in North Kiangsu, 60 million cubic meters in North Anhwei, and 20 million cubic meters in Shantung. About 5,800,000 persons were saved from spring drought.

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